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An Account of the Smithsonian Institution, its Founder, Building, Operations &c., prepared from the Reports of Prof. Henry to the Regents, and other authentic sources. By William J. Rhees. Washington, 1857. 8vo.—*From the Institution.*

Prof. Trego announced the decease of the Hon. Langdon Cheves, a member of this Society, who died at Columbia, S. C. on the 25th of June last, in the 81st year of his age.

The balloting for candidates for membership being the next business in order, nomination No. 374 was postponed on the written request of Prof. Frazer, and the ballot proceeded with on a remaining nomination.

The committee appointed on the 7th of November last, on the testamentary bequest of M. François André Michaux, and the trusts described in his will, made a report, accompanied by the following resolution:—

Resolved, That the “American Philosophical Society held at Philadelphia, for promoting useful knowledge,” accepts, with gratitude, the legacy bequeathed by M. F. André Michaux, in his will, dated September 4, 1855, for the purposes therein mentioned, and that the officers of the Society be directed to furnish such proofs as may be necessary to establish the right of the Society to receive the said legacy.

Which resolution was read, considered and adopted.

All other business having been concluded, the ballot box was opened by the presiding officer, who declared that E. SPENCER MILLER, Esq., of Philadelphia, was duly elected a member of the Society.

Stated Meeting, August 21.

Present, nine members.

Judge KANE, President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From E. Spencer Miller, dated July 30, 1857, acknowledging the receipt of notice of his election as a member of the Society:—

From the Cambridge Philosophical Society, dated Feb. 26, 1857; and from the Royal Geographical Society, dated April 2, 1857, both announcing donations for the library:—

From Prof. Zantedeschi, dated Padua, July 6, 1857, on the subject of the electro-telegraphic current, and announcing the transmission of sundry publications written by himself on that and other subjects:—

From the Royal Geographical Society of London, dated November 29, 1856; and from the Royal Society of Sciences at Göttingen, dated April 18, 1857, both acknowledging the receipt of Nos. 53 and 54 of the Proceedings of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Astronomical and Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the year 1855: under the direction of George Biddell Airy, Esq., M. A. Astronomer Royal. London, 1857. 4to.—*From the Royal Society of London.*

Journal of the Royal Geographical Society. Vol. XXVI.

Proceedings of Do. Nos. 7, 8, Feb., March, 1857. London. 8vo.

—*From the Society.*

Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society. Vol. IX. Part 4. Cambridge, 1856. 4to.—*From the Society.*

Abhandlungen der K. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, aus dem Jahre 1855. 4to.

Monatsberichte der K. Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Jan.—Dec. 1856. 8vo.—*From the Royal Academy of Sciences at Berlin.*

Nachrichten von der Georg-Augusts-Universität und der Königl. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen. Jahre 1856. No. 1–18. Göttingen. 8vo.—*From the Royal Society of Sciences at Göttingen.*

Annales des Mines. V. Série. Tome X. 4 livraison de 1856. Paris. 8vo.—*From the Engineers of l'Ecole des Mines.*

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. XVII. No. 8. June, 1857. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. VI. 12, 13, June, July, 1857. Boston 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Annals of the Astronomical Observatory of Harvard College. Vol. II. Part 1: Observations on the Planet Saturn, made with the

- twenty-three foot Equatorial, 1847—1857. By William Cranch Bond, A. M. Director of the Observatory. Cambridge, 1857. 4to.—*From the Observatory.*
- Fifth Annual Report of the Free Public Library of New Bedford, April 4, 1857. New Bedford. 8vo.—*From the Trustees.*
- Thirty-sixth Annual Report of the Mercantile Library Association of the City of New York :—With the Report of the Trustees of the Clinton Hall Association. New York, 1857. 8vo.—*From the Directors.*
- The African Repository. Vol. XXXIII. No. 8. August, 1857. Washington. 8vo.—*From the Am. Colonization Society.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XXXIV. No. 1, July: No. 2, Aug. 1857. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*
- Studies in Organic Morphology: An Abstract of Lectures delivered before the Pottsville Scientific Association in 1855 and 1856, by John Warner. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Association.*
- Memorie del Osservatorio dell'Universita Gregoriana in Collegio Romano, diretto dai P. P. della Compagnia di Gesu. Anno 1850—51.
- Memorie del Nuovo Osservatorio del Collegio Romano. Anno 1852—55.
- Pontifica Corrispondenza Meteorologica Telegrafica in Roma. Primo Semestre—Luglio—Dicembre, 1855. Breve Ragguaglio del P. A. Secchi, Direttore del Osservatorio del Collegio Romano.
- Ricerche sull'Attuale Valore della Declinazione Magnetica in Roma: Memoria del P. A. Secchi, Dir. Oss. Coll. Rom. 1854.
- Intorno ad un Nuovo Barometrografo:—Memoria del P. Angelo Secchi. 1857. Roma. 4to.—*From P. Angelo Secchi.*
- Note sur les Courants Electriques dirigés en sens opposé sur le même fil, en relation avec la telegraphie :—par M. Zantedeschi. Risposta del Prof. F. Zantedeschi ai cenni della Relazione del Sig. Dott. Gintl, intorno al contemporaneo passaggio delle correnti opposte in un solo filo :—De mutationibus quæ contingunt in spectro solari fixo: elucubratio Prof. Francesco Zantedeschi :—Delle Irradiazioni Chimiche, e della necessita del loro foco separato da quello delle irradiazioni calorifiche e luminose al conseguimento della purezza e perfezione delle prove fotografiche negative ottenute coi ioduri d'argento: Memorie III. dei Signori Zantedeschi e Borlinetto :—Dei limita di impressionabilita delle sostanze fotografiche dell'influenza delle superficie nei fenomini fotogenicé, della loro chimica natura, dei miglioramenti apporati all'arte eliogra-

fica : Memorie IV. dei Signori Zantedeschi e Borlinetto :—Sull'Influenza del Vuoto e di alcuni gaz ne fenomeni chimice che presentano i ioduri d'argento esposti alla luce solare : Memorie V. di S. S. Zantedeschi e Borlinetto :—Di alcuni nuovi esperimenti co'quali si e creduto di comprovare la non simultanea esistenza di due correnti opposte sul medesimo filo conduttore : nota di P. Zantedeschi :—Risultamenti ottenuti da un Giroscopio : di Prof. Zantedeschi a Padua.—*From Prof. Zantedeschi.*

Appendix No. 28. On the general distribution of Terrestrial Magnetism in the United States, from observations made in the U. S. Coast Survey and others : By A. D. Bache Superintendent, and J. E. Hilgard, Assistant U. S. Coast Survey. Washington. 4to.—*From Prof. A. D. Bache.*

Specimens of Tables, calculated, stereomoulded and printed by machinery. (Swedish Calculating Machine). London, 1857. 8vo.—*From Edward Scheutz.*

On the Cyclones or Typhoons of the North Pacific Ocean : with a Chart showing their courses of progression. By W. C. Redfield. (Am. Jour. Sci. and Arts, July, 1857.) 8vo.—*Donor unknown.*

The Astronomical Journal : No. 104. (Vol. V. No. 8.) June 30, 1857. Albany. 4to.—*From Dr. B. A. Gould, jr., Editor.*

The Medical News and Library. Vol. XV. No. 176. Aug. 1857. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*

Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge. Vol. IX. Washington, 1857. 4to.

Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, showing the Operations, Expenditures and Condition of the Institution for the year 1856, and the Proceedings of the Board up to January 28, 1857. Washington. 8vo.—*From the Institution.*

Mr. Ord announced the decease of Charles Lucien Bonaparte, Prince of Canino, a member of this Society, who died at Paris, July 29, 1857, aged 54: and, on motion of Dr. William Harris, Mr. Ord was appointed to prepare an obituary notice of the deceased member.

The letter from Prof. Zantedeschi, read this evening, informs the Society that he has sent to them a copy of his treatise on a system of Telegraphs for Locomotives and Rail Roads, and of his "Telegraph of double simultaneous correspondence upon the same wire by direct successive currents of simultaneous derivation." As the priority of

this discovery has been claimed by others, he communicated to the Institute of France, published documents of a date proving his right to it, and invited all who might have preceded him by similar publications, to establish their right to the priority. No response having been made, he considers himself entitled to the credit of the discovery, and sends to the Society a copy of his communication to Dr. Gintl, in which he invited all the claimants to reply.

He prays the Society to call the attention of those in this country, who may have a knowledge of the subject, to his "Telegraph of double correspondence by direct successive currents of simultaneous derivation," so that experiments with regard to it may be made upon the great telegraphic line which is to connect America with Europe. He expresses his belief, that on a single internal conducting wire, a simultaneous correspondence of America with Europe, and of Europe with America, may be successfully accomplished;—and that, by multiplying the apparatus, opposite despatches from the two continents may be distinctly transmitted simultaneously.

The pamphlet containing a description of his telegraph is in the library of the Society, and if drawings to illustrate it should be desired, he offers to send them.

He concludes by referring to the pleasure it would give him to be aided in this matter by the countrymen of Franklin, who was the first to extend a line connecting the heavens with the earth.

This letter of Prof. Zantedeschi gave rise to some discussion on the subject of the passage of electric currents, in which Mr. Justice, Judge Kane, and Dr. F. Bache, participated.

Stated Meeting, September 18.

Present, thirteen members.

Prof. FRAZER, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Massachusetts Historical Society, dated Boston, June 8, 1857, acknowledging the receipt of Vol. XI. Part 1, of the Transactions of this Society: and—

From G. B. Airy, Astronomer Royal, dated Royal Obser-